

Department of Ecology
Associated Lead and Arsenic-Related Activities
March 6 Area-wide Task Force Meeting

What are the various activities around the state dealing with lead and arsenic soil contamination?

Western Washington:

Tacoma Smelter Plume:

TSP wide:

- Met with School Superintendents of King and Pierce Counties regarding health education in schools; access for child-use area sampling; and possible opportunities to address arsenic and lead during maintenance and development projects.
- Completed production of, and distributed, the TSP educational video tape to cities, libraries and child care providers throughout the smelter plume area.

Pierce County:

- Provided a media update on the final data results from the footprint study.
- Tacoma Pierce County Health Department (TPCHD) prioritized child-use areas for sampling. Sampling began in February.
- TPCHD is developing a survey of two target communities to determine if health messages are getting to the communities and if behaviors are changing. Survey related focus group meetings to be held in March.
- In process of negotiating the scope of work for '03-'05 Site Hazard Assessment Grant.

King:

- Child-use area sampling continues as access agreements are obtained. Properties are selected based on the prioritized list of child-use areas. Schools are complete; focusing on parks now. Having some difficulty getting access to the childcare facilities – many have just not responded. Sampling should be completed mid-March, with a media update on the first batch of data results.
- In process of negotiating the scope of work for '03-'05 Site Hazard Assessment grant.
- Provided information through a Public Health -- Seattle & King County educational booth at the Seattle Garden. Several people asked about soil sampling.
- Plans are being developed to conduct limited sampling at the Vashon School District to test the efficacy of some remedial measures taken there.
- Met with Highline School District representatives regarding their redevelopment of 4 schools. We are looking for opportunities to address arsenic/lead during construction activities.

Weyerhaeuser-DuPont Site Pierce County:

A milestone has been reached. The draft final Remedial Investigation, Risk Assessment, Feasibility Study, Cleanup Action Plan, and Consent Decree documents have been released for a 90-day public comment period. Articles about the site have appeared in The Olympian and The Tacoma News Tribune. Arsenic and lead are two of the contaminants of concern at this large area site.

East of the Cascades:

Wenatchee School District Lead/Arsenic Cleanup-Lincoln Elementary:

- A draft design for an Emergency Action has been submitted by General Administration's Division of Engineering and Architectural Services. We are reviewing it in coordination with the Wenatchee School District.
- The Lincoln Elementary interim action plans & specification are close to final with an anticipated add date of early March 2003. The \$50,000 is unlikely to be adequate to complete the project in its entirety.

Okanogan County:

No sampling activity due to winter weather. Sampling of the two remaining schools should occur by the end of March. The county will then begin conducting sampling at child day-care locations. A cleanup action at the Omak elementary school will begin this spring.

Contacts and activities:

No press contacts to report.

Ecology responded to comments and concerns about the Area-wide Project as raised by the Washington State Farm Bureau.

Ecology Tacoma Smelter Plume staff will present session at the Bellingham Environmental Education conference. Their focus will include an environmental education curriculum survey. The conference takes place on March 13-15th.

Ecology is invited to speak at the Bellevue Community College Science Club their Earth Week conference planned for late April.